

Judiciary Committee

Testimony re: Raised Bill No. 475

An Act Concerning Nonviolent Offenders

**Submitted by Robert Farr, Chairman - Board of Pardons and Paroles
March, 19th, 2010**

Good morning, Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee. I am Robert Farr, Chairman of the Board of Pardons and Paroles and I am submitting testimony today to address some concerns with the language proposed in Raised Bill No. 475.

Sec. 3. Of this bill would mandate that the supervising parole officer of the Department of Corrections Parole and Community Services Division assess the risk of a parolee who had committed a new, non-violent offense, and make a recommendation to Board of Pardons and Paroles to consider that the parolee be re-released under the condition of home confinement with GPS monitoring in lieu of incarceration.

This process being proposed is already part of the current policy that was developed between the Department and the Board in dealing with responses to violations. Therefore, I don't see the need to mandate this type of incremental sanction in this proposed legislation where it was already mandated in C.G.S. 54-124a(l)(2).

Also, given the way the current bill is drafted, it is unclear as to how an offender under home confinement would be able to access necessary services such as substance abuse treatment in order to be compliant with this or any other conditions of parole if such person is confined to his/her home.

Lastly, if a pending non-violent charge results in a new criminal conviction associated with a term of incarceration, current statute dictates that the parolee would have to be incarcerated until satisfaction of 50% of the new sentence.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Robert Farr

Robert Farr, Chairman